

**ABSTRACT**

**METHODS AND REAGENTS RELATING TO INFLAMMATION AND APOPTOSIS**

The present invention relates to, among other embodiments, protein complexes which include tumor necrosis factor alpha (TNF- $\alpha$ ) and/or tumor necrosis factor alpha receptor (TNFR). Preferably, the complexes comprise at least one polypeptide selected from the group consisting of: NF- $\kappa$ B activating kinase (NAK), RasGAP3, TRCP1, and TRCP2. The present invention further provides assays of identifying a compound for modulating the stability and activity of the complex. Also provided are methods of modulating apoptosis and inflammation, as well as treating TNF- $\alpha$  related diseases.